



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Blue Island, IL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Blue Island was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located southwest of Chicago in Cook County, Blue Island (population 23,500) was historically a transportation and industrial center. Blue Island's poverty and unemployment rates exceed county rates, and more than half of its residents are minorities. The city has created an economic development plan to revitalize its downtown. The plan focuses on transit-oriented development around the city's two existing Metra commuter stations. Many historical industrial properties, suspected to be contaminated, are located in the development areas. Brownfields assessment will help generate interest in site reuse among businesses, facilitating redevelopment of the sites. Redevelopment is expected to



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Blue Island for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to develop a city-wide brownfields inventory and to prioritize sites in areas targeted for transit-oriented development. Grant funds also will be used to conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Blue Island, IL
708-396-7138

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

increase the number of households within walking distance of public transit, increase business activity in the downtown, and create a more vibrant downtown.